

# The University of Kansas Medical Center

School of Medicine  
Department of Preventive Medicine

March 25, 1988

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REMD SECTION

Alice Fuerst  
Waste Management Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VII  
726 Minnesota Ave.  
Kansas City, KS 66101

Dear Ms. Fuerst:

Thank you for sending me the materials on the Operable Unit Feasibility Study for Galena.

I would like to share with you a few additional thoughts on your project.

1. The EPA level of effort on potential food chain contamination could be improved. Warren Bird, a graduate student in the Civil Engineering Department at KU in Lawrence has some additional data on fish in Empire Lake. I'm sure that he will be glad to share the data with you. These fish were analyzed at the EPA laboratory. What is completely missing, however, is any analysis of a sample of garden vegetables. Cadmium is a notorious food chain contaminant and certain crops (eg., spinach and tomatoes) can accumulate this metal to high concentrations.
2. It could be helpful if your study could be accomplished at greater speed. With metals now known to be around, it is important to quickly ascertain the extent of the problem in the remaining areas of Cherokee County.
3. The jurisdictional problems with Missouri and Oklahoma need to be cleared up quickly. Effort should be made to start your work in Jasper County. If there are obstacles to this, then you need to address them vigorously through administrative or political channels. With respect to Oklahoma, the state needs to evaluate the tailing piles for heavy metals. Alternatively, EPA Region VI should take over. The EPA administrator may need to take action to insure that this set of interstate problems is resolved expeditiously.



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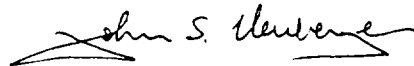
Alice Fuerst

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In conclusion, I think that your study has come a long way. However, more needs to be accomplished. I hope that my comments will provide some constructive guidance.

Godspeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John S. Neuberger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John S. Neuberger, Dr. P.H.  
Associate Professor

JSN/jt

